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# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1914

THE SERVICE OF MEDICINE TO CIVILIZATION<sup>1</sup>

## CONTENTS

<i>The Service of Medicine to Civilization:</i> DR. VICTOR C. VAUGHAN .....	1
<i>A Fossil Human Skeleton from German East Africa:</i> PROFESSOR GEORGE GRANT MAC-CURDY .....	19
<i>The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.</i>	20
<i>Bequests of Mrs. Morris K. Jesup</i> .....	21
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	21
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	25
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Types of Bird Genera</i> <i>Limnothlypis</i> <i>New Genus:</i> DR. WITMER STONE. <i>Mutation:</i> PROFESSOR MAYNARD M. METCALF. <i>A New Locality and Horizon for Pennsylvania Vertebrates:</i> W. H. TWENHOFEL. <i>Crown Gall of Alfalfa:</i> DR. P. J. O'GARA. <i>Religious Training at a University:</i> PROFESSOR W. A. NOYES .....	26
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Winterstein's Handbuch der Vergleichenden Physiologie:</i> PROFESSOR LAFAYETTE B. MENDEL. <i>Gossner's Kristallberechnung:</i> PROFESSOR EDWARD H. KRAUS. <i>Scudder on Electrical Conductivity and Ionization Constants:</i> PROFESSOR E. H. ARCHIBALD .....	28
<i>Notes on Meteorology and Climatology:—</i>	
<i>The Rainfall of California; The Monthly Weather Review; Antarctic Meteorology; Notes:</i> CHARLES F. BROOKS .....	29
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>A Culture Medium for the Tissues of Amphibians:</i> PROFESSOR S. J. HOLMES. <i>On the Chemical Nature of the Luminous Material of the Firefly:</i> PROFESSOR E. NEWTON HARVEY .....	32
<i>The American Chemical Society:</i> DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS .....	34

*Fellow Members of the American Medical Association:* I wish to express my appreciation of the honor conferred on me in being called to officiate as your president at this time. I had been content to serve in the ranks, and I have regarded this position as too honorable to be sought, or to be lightly regarded when spontaneously bestowed. During my term of office I will give you my most devoted service.

In ancient times, civilization was born, grew for a few generations and fell into decay. In all instances it was local and covered only small areas. Its habitations were oases in the world-wide desert of ignorance and superstition, and after an ephemeral existence all were buried in the sand. Relatively small bodies of men occupying salubrious regions developed the elements of science and for a few centuries flourished. Their superior knowledge gave them dominion over their less fortunate neighbors, who were converted into slaves. Conquest brought disease and the local civilizations were obliterated by contagion. History is replete with instances in which triumphant heroes have brought to their rejoicing countries with their prisoners of war invisible and intangible agents of death, which have ultimately vanquished the victors.

The Egyptians of the Pharaohs drained the land, built aqueducts, disposed of their dead hygienically, reared temples and cities, maintained law and order, developed

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

<sup>1</sup> President's address before the American Medical Association, at the sixty-fifth annual session, Atlantic City, June, 1914.